Ruth B. Freeman Award

Honoree:
Dr. Susan Zahner, DrPH, MPH, RN, FAAN
is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing. Dr. Zahner has held numerous public health leadership positions including those of past Chair of the APHA PHN Section, President of the Wisconsin Public Health Association, Public Health Nursing Supervisor and Public Health Nursing Director of the Madison Department of Public Health, and Chair of the Joint Board of Health for Public Health Madison Dane County. Currently, she serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. Dr. Zahner has proven a driving force in enhancing the field of public health nursing through the integration of science into practice, introduction of electronic record keeping, implementation of quality improvement and program evaluation, and collaborative efforts. Her enhancement of public health and public health nursing also includes the generation of knowledge through state and nationally funded nursing research with dissemination through peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations. Dr. Zahner’s achievements and contributions to public health are best described by the following quote from a nomination letter: “Few have had the kind of impact that Dr. Zahner has had in truly bringing together the critical ingredients of leadership, lifelong learning, and deep and meaningful collaboration. Her eyes are ahead of her time as a designer of ways to generate relevant knowledge and move it into the hands of people engaged in improving public health and nursing on a daily basis.”